



WELCOME TO:
FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 Seventh Ave (at 8th Street Bridge), Altoona, PA 16602 Ph: 814-943-0713
Website: www.FaithUCCAltoona.com Email: faithuccaltoona@verizon.net

9:30 AM	Adult Christian Education	Rev. John L. Emig
10:45 AM	Worship	Pastor
Fellowship Hour Following Worship		814-244-1602



No matter who YOU are or where YOU are on life's journey, YOU are welcome here.

"Never place a period where God has placed a comma"-- Gracie Allen



It's gratifying to have each worshiper here today. Greetings and blessings in the name of Jesus!

Christ Jesus didn't reject anyone neither do we. God Is Still Speaking.

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

***Those who are able are invited to stand.**
BOLD print – congregation participates.
Hymns are in the New Century Hymnal unless otherwise indicated.

Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw Your children back to Your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons, and reconcile our hearts to You that we may become ambassadors of Your reconciling love to all the world. Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Organ chimes

Joys, Concerns, and Announcements

Greeting:

L: No matter who YOU are or where YOU are on life's journey,

P: YOU are welcome here!

Prelude

Lighting the Altar Candles

Call to Worship:

L: Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

L: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15: 1 – 3, 11 – 14

Response: "Praise be to You, O Christ!"

***Hymn of Adoration: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #43**

***Call to Confession**

L: God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we are eternally loved and infinitely forgiven, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

Merciful God,
we confess that we have strayed from your ways.
Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our
inheritance.
You gave us the earth for your home,
but we squander earth’s resources and hoard
its bounty.
You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish
ambitions.
You gave us the commandments that lead to
human flourishing,
but we break your law and forsake your love.
Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance.
Draw our wandering hearts back to you
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.
Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

***Kyrie**

(The Leader says)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

(The People sing)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

L: The psalmist assures us that God’s goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God’s forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

P: We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.

***Gloria Patri**

Extinguishing the Lenten Candles

Anthem: “Let Us Sing the Songs (of Those Who Cannot Speak)” – Wiser/Dunbar

First Lesson: Joshua 5: 9 – 12

Psalter: Psalm 32, page 642

***Hymn of Preparation: “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” #476**

Second Lesson: II Corinthians 5: 16 – 21

SERMON

*** Affirmation of Faith: UCC Statement of Faith #885**

***Call to Prayer**

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Create in me a clean heart, O God,

P: and renew a right spirit within me.

L: Cast us not away from Your presence

P: and take not Your Holy Spirit from us. (Please be seated)

Morning Prayer: The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

***Dedicatory Prayer (In Unison)**

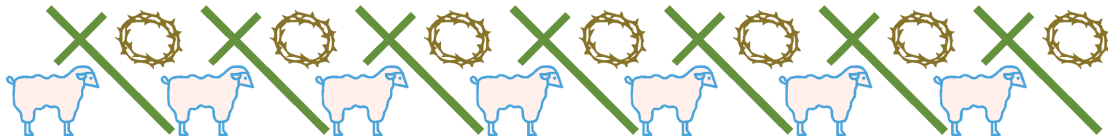
O God, all that we have comes from You. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to You only what You have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Response: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” #193**

***Benediction**

***Masithi Page 760**

***Postlude**



Participating in Today’s Service

YOU – the members and ministers in Christ’s family	
Music Director	Claire White
Acolyte	Nick Lonsinger
Lay Reader	Grace Raihl
Church Secretary	Christina and Shane Schmitt
Minister	Rev. John Emig

Attendance: 3—23—25 Sunday School: 5 Worship: 23

OUR STEWARDSHIP FOR March 23, 2025

Current	\$ 607.00
Gardner’s Fundraiser	\$1,157.20
Penn West Academy	\$ 330.00
Plate	\$ 45.00
Sunday School	\$ 14.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 131.50
TOTAL	\$2,284.70

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun., April 6th	9:30 AM	Sunday School
	10:45 AM	Worship

We practice “extravagant” welcome here at Faith UCC, just as Jesus would invite and encourage us to do. So **WELCOME** to each and every one!

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is today. This is one of our 5 X 5 special offerings.

Rod Skelley sings Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM at “Levity” on 11th Avenue.

Next Saturday, April 5th, we are inviting folks to join us to rake up the yard for spring. We will meet at 10:00 AM. Rakes will be provided. (Rain date will be April 12th). Thank you.

Next Sunday, April 6th, we will celebrate Holy Communion. Please join us in gratitude for God’s gracious invitation to the sacred table.

Faith Fellowship will be held Tuesday, April 8th, at 10:30 AM.

Friday Evening Worship will be held next on April 11th at 6:00 PM.

Credit card/debit card slips are available.

The Flower Calendar for 2025 is available on the board above the water fountain.

Large-print Daily Bread devotionals are available in the narthex (hall). Please help yourself.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! In an effort to keep our prayer list as up-to-date as possible, we request that you **personally notify the office** any time a name needs to be added or deleted from the list. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Friends and Neighbors needing our Prayers:

Vivian Fitzsimmons
Craig Meyers
Heather Guthrie
Nick Lonsinger
Janet Weyer
Beverly Emig Family, grieving
Baby Ridge
Dave Zimmerman
Lettie Allen
Sally Sprow
Joe Stubby
Dallas Webb
Peggy Mapes
Zach Lonsinger Family
Donna Skelley
Linda Hollen
Shawn Ellis
Scott Weyer
Carol Marlett
Our sick and shut-ins



We offer up our prayers for any of our **church family** not listed here who may be in need.

Please pray for our men and women in the military.

